

## **MEMORANDUM DM 00-02**

DATE: January 4, 2000

TO: All Coal Mine Operators

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
Frank A. Linkous  
Chief, Division of Mines

SUBJECT: On-Shift Examination of All Mobile Equipment

The Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia under provision of Article 2 of Chapter 14.4, Surface Mine Requirements, establish requirements for work area examinations, record keeping and reporting. This bulletin specifically addresses Section 45.1-161.256 B as related to on-shift examination of all mobile equipment.

On-shift examinations of mobile equipment are required to be performed by an authorized person on any shift the equipment is operated. Examinations must be performed on all surface equipment including loading, haulage, service and other mobile equipment. An authorized person means a person assigned by the operator or agent to perform the examination who is trained and has demonstrated the ability to perform the examination safely and effectively.

Section 45.1-161.257 A & C establishes documentation and reporting requirements for on-shift examinations of all mobile equipment. Part A requires documentation of the examination in a mine record book established for this purpose, and Part C requires the surface foreman to maintain and sign a daily record book, including identification of hazardous conditions reported and corrected at the mine.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration also has requirements under Part 77 of Title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, which require pre-operational examinations of mobile loading and haulage equipment. Both state and federal mining laws and regulations establish similar requirements that can be met through an effective pre-operational examination, record keeping and reporting program. A recommended program has been developed by the DMME with assistance from our customers. The program provides recommended procedures and format for conducting, recording and reporting required examinations of surface mobile equipment.

During the first quarter of 2000, Division of Mines personnel will be presenting and providing a copy of this recommended program to all mine operators and contractors of record in Virginia. You are encouraged to consider the format and content of this program, and evaluate its potential benefit in helping you comply with state and federal mobile equipment, on-shift examination standards.

For more information concerning this program, contact your Mine Inspector, any DM Specialist, or our Division offices at (540) 498-4533, Keen Mountain, or (540) 523-8226, Big Stone Gap.

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